

LUNCH AND LEARN GANG: “The Climate Project”

March 6, 12-1:00 p.m.

Region II Conference Room

“Just a slim majority of Americans consider global warming ‘a very serious problem,’ despite an avalanche of publicity on the issue, and many aren’t even taking the ‘green’ actions they support, a nationwide survey suggests.”

This statement is from an early February article in *The Tennessee* and the survey findings concern many scientists and behavior experts. It reveals a gulf between public perceptions and the scientific consensus that the phenomenon of climate change poses threats. There is growing concern among behavior experts that “there has been too much fear-mongering and not enough emphasis on what people can do.”

One response to informing people of what can be done on an individual and group level to offset climate change is The Climate Project (TCP). It began operations in June 2006, based in Nashville, Tennessee, as a non-profit organization with the mission of increasing public awareness of the climate crisis at a grassroots level throughout the United States and abroad.

By April 2007, a diverse group of 1000 volunteers from every corner of the USA had been trained to present a version of the slide show on which the Academy Award-winning film, “*An Inconvenient Truth*” is based. In addition, TCP/AI Gore-training initiatives have already trained almost 400 people in the UK and Australia with international trainings being planned in Spain, India, China, Canada and others.

Our next Lunch and Learn Gang speaker, Tami Coleman, Coordinator of Project CENTS (Conservation Education Now for Tennessee Students) with the Tennessee Department of Education and former science teacher, will present her version of The Climate Project Slideshow. She was in the “First Fifty” Climate Project training group where half of her training was done in the barn at the Gore farm in Carthage.

She will be telling us about basic climate science; effects of climate change we see now; and what each of us can do, individually and collectively, to address the problem.

Come to the next L&LG and let’s find out what we can do to make a difference with this complex problem.

Hosted by the I&E Department and held on the first Thursday of each month, except July, Lunch and Learn Gang presentations are about natural resource related topics and last about 30-45 minutes, allowing time for discussion during the allotted lunch hour. If you would like to make a presentation, if you have topics of personal interest you would like us to address, or if you know someone who offers an interesting program, contact Patricia Miller at (615) 781-5276 or by e-mail: Patricia.Miller@state.tn.us.